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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL MONOPOLIES

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OFFICIAL NEWS OF ANDERSON COUNTY.

N. R. P. A. K. R. P. A.

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CAN'T RAISE THE CASH.

King Edward expected to raise money by popular donations to build a monument to Queen Victoria, but the people of Great Britain failed to respond. Now, the king asks parliament to make an appropriation to build the monument.

And this reminds us of the fact that an effort was made to get from the moneyed classes of this country enough money to build a monument to William McKinley. They failed to "shell out," and now the school children, Sunday schools and churches are being importuned to raise the money. It is proving slow work, however, and there is little likelihood that the money will be raised.

The people have ceased to be hero-worshippers, and they will not give up their money to buy monuments to dead men. This does not indicate that they are lacking in patriotism, but that they do not see the good of monument-building. In the minds of sensible Americans, a man's life should be his monument.

MORE WAR TALK.

There is serious talk of war between England and Germany—and all because Joe Chamberlain has a running off at the mouth. Like Polly the parrot, he "talks too darned much." Some time ago, he abused the German soldiery, in a speech, which raised the ire of the Germans, and they slapped back. Things have been going from bad to worse ever since, and now it is claimed that there is a strong possibility that war will result.

It is claimed that in case of war, England will look to the United States for help. While a lot of fool Anglomaniacs will favor such a plan, the American people will not uphold them in it. The United States has a large German-speaking population, and they are good, industrious citizens. The United States government cannot afford to aid their enemy.

At last, the Kansas supreme court has decided the Topeka mayoralty case, and has given the office to Parker, the fusion candidate. J. W. F. Hughes, the military dude who never saw a fight except the one at the state-house during the "Lewelling war," has been occupying the place and drawing another man's salary. It has been known all along that Parker was entitled to the place, but Hughes' friends had "the inside track," and he held the place. Parker may not prove any better mayor than Hughes, but he received a majority of the votes, and he should have had the place.

SCHWAB, the million-dollar president of the billion-dollar steel (steal) trust, has been over at Paris, where he had himself interviewed. He declares that trusts are a good thing; that the laboring people are receiving better wages in this country than anywhere else, and that the trusts have nothing to fear from Socialism, as our laboring men are satisfied. He may be able to make the people over the pond believe all he says, but Americans know better. He will find, later on, that the trusts have cause to fear Socialism.

SECRETARY LONG explains that the laws governing naval prize-money give the commander-in-chief of a fleet the lion's share of it "whether he is personally present during the engagement or not." This recalls Mr. Bumble's remark, "The law is an ass."—New York World.

That remark might be revised so as to read, "Secretary Long is an ass."

BUT WE DID.

When the fathers of our history declared that men were free,
And flung their buckskin gauntlet at the power across the sea,
There were fearful faltering ones
Who declared by all the suns
Of the hoary-headed centuries that it could never be.
We could never, never do it—
But we did.
Tho' the narrow ones were nervous,
There were steady souls of service,
And we did.

When they welded our feeble States to one united chain,
And proclaimed an open market to the wide world's brawn and brain,
Kings and tyrants of all lands
Rolled their heads and raised their hands
As they clamored at the notion of a Nation gone insane;
And they said: "You'll never do it!"
But we did.
Spite of friction and of action,
And we did.

When they placed the power of government in reach of rich and poor,
With a ballot held in every hand to make its meaning sure,
Every fossilized foggy
Conjured up a special boggy.
With a "What! the serving and the served, the gentle and the boor?
Oh, you must not, dare not do it."
But we did.
For we knew man, born of woman,
If he's nothing else he's human,
So we did.

When contention in the council of the commonwealths was rife,
And the long-fanned, smoldering embers leaped to furious flames of strife,
At the sounding of the drum
Half the world cried "It has come!"
Neither God, nor man, nor devil can preserve the Union's life;

You can never, never do it."
But we did.
Though it tore our every vital,
There was this much in requital—
That we did.

When the weary war was over, and the blackness of a skin
Ceased to be the sign and symbol of a Nation's blacker sin,
Still the cry was "All your slaughter
Only leaves you oil and water,
Stirring in a common measure, but no unity within.

You can never reconcile them."
But we did.
And our compass shows no section
Harboring discord and defection,
For we did.

Now, again we face a problem, with its settlement in doubt,
And in trouble and in travail we must work the answer out.
Do it with your own brains solely,
Do it with your own hands wholly,
Hampered by no foreign nation, hampered by no party shout.

You and I must face and do it.
And we will.
There's a shifting way and wrong way,
There's a lasting way and strong way:

But we will.
Far across the Western blueness is the glint of crimson bars;
If we're right, the colors stay there, spite of all the might of Mars;
If we're wrong we will withdraw them, Better mankind never saw them
Than to flaunt them over empires with a stain upon the stars.
Time and Truth can solve the question.
And they will.
Maybe your way, maybe my way,
But, O Flag of Freedom, thy way.
That they will!
—Edmund Vance Cooke.

WHAT SOCIALISTS ARE DOING.

Minnesota will hold state convention at Minneapolis on February 22d.

Arrangements are being made for lectures by H. Gaylord Wilshire in Philadelphia on the 22d, Washington on the 23d and Baltimore the 24th.

John C. Chase will lecture in Ohio from February 10th to 16th, inclusive.

Charles Ufert, of West Hoboken, has been elected national committeeman from New Jersey.

The national committee has issued state charter to New Hampshire.

Local charters were issued to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Burlington, Vermont.

The national committee has received word from Comrade Geo. D. Herron, who is now in Switzerland, that he will return to this country about April 1st.

Comrade Ben Tillett will speak at Milwaukee on January 22d; Chicago, January 23d and 24th, and St. Louis, January 25th.

According to present arrangements, the national committee will meet at St. Louis at 10 a. m., Friday, January 24th, at the Lindell hotel. It is the intention to hold the meeting in one of the special committee rooms, which has been placed at the disposal of the national committee by the hotel management. From present indications, it appears likely that at least 20 national committeemen will be present. Important matters will come up for consideration, which will keep the committee in regular session for probably a week.

THE daily papers tell us that "the sugar men agree on the Cuban tariff." Some one please tell us what the sugar men of the United States have to do with it, anyhow.

GOVERNMENT ownership is bound to become a great political issue in the future. In fact it is already a prime question before the citizens of this country. Unanswerable argument in its favor has been advanced by the experience of other countries. The logic of events is forcing us onward toward the good of public ownership. The Populists are the pioneers of this movement. They should stand firmly together and continue the work of education.—Kansas Commoner.

GENERAL METCALF, the newly-appointed pension agent, who takes Cy Leland's place, is being investigated. Some soldiers are after him. Captain Boltwood, of Ottawa, and others have forwarded to Washington a protest against his confirmation, charging him with shooting an unarmed Filipino prisoner on the Caloocan field. These protests may defeat Metcalf's confirmation. Senators Harris and Burton both favor his confirmation, however.

ONE of these days the Populist idea of public ownership will rise up mightily in the public mind as a remedy for that private railroad trust which seeks to destroy all competition. The days of the railroad trust, the railroad pool, and the railroad strike will then be numbered.—Kansas Commoner.

NOW THAT President Roosevelt has appointed H. C. Payne postmaster-general, he has heard such a rumbling of discontent that he is "investigating" Payne—trying to lock the door after the horse is stolen. He should have done his investigating before making the appointment.

A SEAT in the New York stock exchange sold for \$75,000 the other day.

Madden's Ruling.

While Mr. E. C. Madden, third assistant postmaster-general, may be carrying out the orders of his masters in suppressing what are known as reform journals throughout the country—for example, the Challenge and the Appeal to Reason, published at Girard, Kansas; the Farmers' Advocate and other papers of the same character. He will inaugurate a crusade whose outcome will be hard to foretell.

There has been an effort on the part of the United States postal department for years to handicap the reform movement in politics, but, up to the present time, it has never dared to shut out any leading journal or prominent weekly. It seems that the time has arrived when a third-class government official has been allowed to assume the office of public censor, and dictate what the people in general shall read.

This officious and meddlesome policy of the government is bound to beget trouble, and perhaps a revolution, for the American people have been taught and made to believe that they have the inalienable and God-given right of free speech and a free press and when any party administration, be it Republican or Democratic, would deny them that right, it is time to protest, and woe unto the party that saith nay.

This attack by Mr. Madden upon the reform press is a crime against humanity, and one that stamps Madden and all his class as enemies of the human race, as foes of a free and righteous government.

The outrageous policy of the third assistant postmaster-general is not only a piece of petty tyranny, but it is an insult to every American citizen, and one that should be resented to the uttermost. It means more than the suppression of a few petty reform papers. It means that the most sacred right guaranteed by our constitution is assailed. It means that our whole fabric of government is in danger; that the basest traitors are occupying high places under our government. As long as such things as Madden are permitted to fill public office, we cannot have a government run in the interests of all the people.

Down with Madden. OLD SOLDIER.

ACCORDING to the Montreal Herald and Star, it cost three hundred thousand dollars to entertain that royal snob, the Duke of Cornwall and York, and his wife, while on their recent visit to Canada. Of course, the loyal "Canucks" had the supreme pleasure of seeing a real live scion of royalty, who is made of so much better mud than common mortals. It is said that some of the royalty-loving lick-spittles over in Canada shouted themselves hoarse in welcoming the duke. As long as there are so many of the Tory class who are willing and glad to keep up this pernicious and idiotic system of royalty, there is not much hope for the common people.

J. M. N.

If a tithe of the money that is spent in organizing labor unions and their contingent expenses, as well as the money spent in aiding strikes, was spent in educating the people in the fundamental principles of Socialism, there would be no strikes as known at present. There would be only two more struggles or strikes—one in the caucus or nominating convention; the other at the ballot-box—and the fight would be won.

J. M. N.

WE have received the first number of the Burlington Herald, just started by H. C. Leedy. It is a bright paper, chock-full of local news and bristling with snappy editorials. It has a healthy appearance.

ONE hundred and sixty-eight Illinois men carry life insurance of \$50,000 and over, each. H. H. Kohlsaat carries \$735,000. He heads the list.

R. L. ADAMS.

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